

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ An installation for manufacturing a wound rigid tubular pipe, the ~~said~~ rigid tubular pipe being intended to be installed subsea by a laying ship ~~to carry hydrocarbons in particular~~, the ~~said~~ installation comprising

an assembly unit operable for assembling a plurality of rigid tubes end to end to obtain lengths and for assembling the ~~said~~ lengths ~~in such a way as~~ to form the ~~said~~ rigid tubular pipe; ~~which is intended to be wound onto~~

a storage reel situated on the ~~said~~ laying ship onto which the tubular pipe is intended to be wound and the pipe having undergone plastic deformation[[.]]; ~~characterized in that this installation comprises:~~

[[-]] a first float separate from the laying ship;

an intermediate winding and deforming apparatus means (11) arranged on the first floating means (10) ~~distinct from the said laying ship~~ float and operable to plastically deform the ~~said~~ rigid tubular pipe (28) and wind [[it]] the pipe onto the ~~said~~ intermediate winding ~~means~~ (11) apparatus after the ~~said~~ rigid tubular pipe (28) has been formed; and

[[-]] ~~connecting means~~ (18) ~~designed to connect~~ a connector connecting together the ~~said~~ first floating ~~means~~ (10) float and the ~~said~~ assembly unit.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ The installation according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the intermediate winding and deforming apparatus means (11) comprise an intermediate storage reel ~~the~~ having a first drum diameter ~~of which is greater than the~~ a second drum diameter of the ~~said~~ storage reel (40) of the laying ~~boat~~ (42) ship.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ The installation according to Claim 2, characterized ~~in that wherein~~ the first drum diameter of the ~~said~~ intermediate storage reel (11) is greater than the a maximum diameter of a last portion of rigid pipe that is likely to be wound onto the ~~said~~ storage reel of the laying ~~boat (42)~~ ship.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ The installation according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3,~~ characterized in that claim 1, further comprising a second float on which the ~~said~~ assembly entity unit is mounted ~~on second floating means (12)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ The installation according to Claim 4, ~~wherein~~ characterized in that the ~~said second floating means (12) have~~ float has a length of between 40 and 120 ~~metres~~ meters along a direction between the storage reel and the intermediate winding and deforming apparatus.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ The installation according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5,~~ characterized in that claim 5, wherein the ~~said connecting means (18) are mounted~~ connector includes an articulated mount articulated on the ~~said first floating means (10) float~~ and on the ~~said~~ assembly entity (12) unit, the articulated mount being operable to allow relative movement of the ~~said first floating means (10) float~~ and of the ~~said assembly entity (12) unit~~ at least in a vertical direction.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ The installation according to Claim 6, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ the ~~said connecting means (18) comprise catching means~~ connector comprises a catch that can be locked so as to obtain a removable ~~connecting means~~ connector.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ The installation according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 7,~~ characterized in that claim 1, wherein the ~~said connecting means (18) are built with connector has~~ a lattice configuration.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ The installation according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8,~~ characterized in that claim 1, wherein the ~~said intermediate winding means (11) apparatus~~ comprise

an intermediate storage reel mounted vertically on the ~~said first floating means (10) float~~ and which is designed being drivable to ~~be driven in rotation~~ rotate about a horizontally-arranged axis so as to wound wind the said rigid tubular pipe (28).

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ The installation according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 9,~~ characterized in that claim 1, wherein the ~~said first floating means (10) comprise~~ comprises a float ballast weight ~~tanks (38) tank~~ fillable to weigh down the ~~said first floating means (10) float~~ according to a the length of the rigid tubular pipe wound onto the ~~said intermediate winding apparatus means (11).~~

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ The installation according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 10,~~ characterized in that claim 1, wherein the ~~said first floating means (10) consist of float~~ comprises a barge or of a vessel with a stable hull.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method for manufacturing a wound rigid tubular pipe, the ~~said rigid tubular pipe~~ being intended to be installed subsea by a laying ship ~~to carry hydrocarbons in particular,~~ the ~~said method~~ comprising: ~~a step of~~

assembling a plurality of rigid tubes end to end to obtain lengths and ~~of~~ assembling the ~~said~~ lengths ~~in such a way as~~ to form the ~~said rigid tubular pipe~~ which is intended to be wound onto a

storage reel situated on the ~~said~~ laying ship, ~~the pipe~~ having undergone plastic deformation, characterized in that this method comprises the following steps:

[[-]] ~~the said rigid tubular pipe is plastically deformed~~ deforming and then winding the rigid tubular pipe wound onto a first floating means (10) float separate from the ~~said~~ laying ship after the ~~said~~ rigid tubular pipe (28) has been ~~formed~~ assembled; and

[[-]] transferring the wound rigid tubular pipe ~~is transferred~~ from the ~~said floating means~~ first float to the ~~said~~ laying ship by rewinding it the pipe onto the ~~said~~ storage reel.